Introduction of High-Speed Bullet Trains between metros

298. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: SHRI B.K.

HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering introduction of high-speed bullet trains between metro cities by building a dedicated fenced rail-corridor particularly between Delhi-Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Japanese lenders have evinced keen interest in the project; and

(d) whether the feasibility study on the project has been completed and if so, the projected capital outlay and the time-frame for execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Currently only feasibility study for high-speed train for Mumbai-Ahmedabad section is being conducted.

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Railway Division at Salem or Coimbatore

299. SHRI C. PERUMAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that substantial portion of Railways in Erode, Coimbatore and Salem districts fall under Palghat divisions;

(b) if so, whether there are practical and administration difficulties due to this;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to create a separate division either at Salem or at Coimbatore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) New Divisions are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. The proposal for creation of a new railway division at Salem or Coimbatore when seen in the light of these considerations, is not found operationally feasible.

Demolition of French Aircraft Carrier

300. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decommissioned and rusty French Aircraft Carrier Clemenceau with possible hazardous substances on board is coming to Indian shores for demolition after the removal of asbestos from the ship;

(b) if so, whether necessary and adequate precautions have been taken **so** that its demolition would not be an environmental hazard, endangering sea life and contaminating atmosphere; and

(c) the compelling circumstances which contributed to our decision for allowing Indian shores for its demolition?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Necessary and adequate precautions for safeguarding the environment as a whole, is enforced by all statutory rules and regulations of Gujarat Maritime Board, Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCD), local Customs authorities etc. The buyer of the French Aircraft Carrier 'Cleamnceau' will have to follow rules and procedures established by law for its demolition.

(c) Presently there is no restriction on import of ships for demolition. The present deal is purely a commercial venture between the buyer and the seller.